

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

# CHAPTER 51

## HOUSE BILL 2179

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 12-516, 13-2929, 32-1471, 36-661, 36-2201, 36-2202, 36-2203, 36-2204, 36-2204.02 AND 36-2209, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING SECTION 36-2212, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2025, CHAPTER 212, SECTION 1; REPEALING SECTION 36-2212, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2025, CHAPTER 212, SECTION 2; AMENDING SECTIONS 36-2213, 36-2215, 36-2216, 36-2217, 36-2226.02, 36-2230, 36-2232, 36-2239, 36-2245, 36-2264, 36-2907, 36-2989, 41-1831 AND 41-2407, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 12-516, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 12-516. Emergency declaration for a public health pandemic;  
5 health professionals; health care institutions;  
6 immunity; burden of proof; presumption;  
7 applicability; definitions

8 A. If the governor declares a state of emergency for a public  
9 health pandemic pursuant to title 26, chapter 2, a health professional or  
10 health care institution that acts in good faith is not liable for damages  
11 in any civil action for an injury or death that is alleged to be caused by  
12 the health professional's or health care institution's action or omission  
13 while providing health care services in support of this state's response  
14 to the state of emergency declared by the governor unless it is proven by  
15 clear and convincing evidence that the health professional or health care  
16 institution failed to act or acted and the failure to act or action was  
17 due to that health professional's or health care institution's wilful  
18 misconduct or gross negligence.

19 B. Subsection A of this section applies to any action or omission  
20 that is alleged to have occurred during a person's screening, assessment,  
21 diagnosis or treatment and that is related to the public health pandemic  
22 that is the subject of the state of emergency or any action or omission  
23 that occurs in the course of providing a person with health care services  
24 and that is unrelated to the public health pandemic that is the subject of  
25 the state of emergency if the health professional's or health care  
26 institution's action or omission was in good faith support of this state's  
27 response to the state of emergency, including any of the following:

28 1. Delaying or canceling a procedure that the health professional  
29 determined in good faith was a nonurgent or elective dental, medical or  
30 surgical procedure.

31 2. Providing nursing care or procedures.

32 3. Altering a person's diagnosis or treatment in response to an  
33 order, directive or guideline that is issued by the federal government,  
34 this state or a local government.

35 4. An act or omission undertaken by a health professional or health  
36 care institution because of a lack of staffing, facilities, equipment,  
37 supplies or other resources that ~~are~~ IS attributable to the state of  
38 emergency and that ~~render~~ RENDERS the health professional or health care  
39 institution unable to provide the level or manner of care to a person that  
40 otherwise would have been required in the absence of the state of  
41 emergency.

42 C. A health professional or health care institution is presumed to  
43 have acted in good faith if the health professional or health care  
44 institution relied on and reasonably attempted to comply with applicable  
45 published guidance relating to the public health pandemic that was issued

1 by a federal or state agency. This subsection does not prohibit a party  
2 from introducing any other evidence that proves the health professional or  
3 health care institution acted in good faith.

4 D. In the case of a claim against a nursing care institution or  
5 residential care institution, ~~where~~ IN WHICH the care in question did not  
6 directly relate to the public health pandemic, the burden is on the  
7 facility to prove that the act or omission was a direct result of having  
8 to provide care to patients needing treatment for the pandemic or due to  
9 limitations in equipment, supplies or staff caused by the pandemic.

10 E. This section applies to all claims that are filed before or  
11 after September 29, 2021 for an act or omission by a person that occurred  
12 on or after March 11, 2020 and that relates to a public health pandemic  
13 that is the subject of the state of emergency declared by the governor.

14 F. This section does not apply to any claim that is subject to  
15 title 23, chapter 6.

16 G. For the purposes of this section:

17 1. "Health care institution" has the same meaning prescribed in  
18 section 36-401 and includes an ambulance service as defined in section  
19 36-2201.

20 2. "Health professional":

21 (a) Has the same meaning prescribed in section 32-3201. ~~and~~

22 (b) Includes an AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT AND ambulance attendant as  
23 defined in section 36-2201.

24 Sec. 2. Section 13-2929, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
25 read:

26 13-2929. Unlawful transporting, moving, concealing, harboring  
27 or shielding of unlawful aliens; vehicle  
28 impoundment; exception; classification

29 A. It is unlawful for a person who is in violation of a criminal  
30 offense to:

31 1. Transport or move or attempt to transport or move an alien in  
32 this state, in furtherance of the illegal presence of the alien in the  
33 United States, in a means of transportation if the person knows or  
34 recklessly disregards the fact that the alien has come to, has entered or  
35 remains in the United States in violation of law.

36 2. Conceal, harbor or shield or attempt to conceal, harbor or  
37 shield an alien from detection in any place in this state, including any  
38 building or any means of transportation, if the person knows or recklessly  
39 disregards the fact that the alien has come to, has entered or remains in  
40 the United States in violation of law.

41 3. Encourage or induce an alien to come to or reside in this state  
42 if the person knows or recklessly disregards the fact that such coming to,  
43 entering or residing in this state is or will be in violation of law.

1 B. A means of transportation that is used in the commission of a  
2 violation of this section is subject to mandatory vehicle immobilization  
3 or impoundment pursuant to section 28-3511.

4 C. A law enforcement official or agency of this state or a county,  
5 city, town or other political subdivision of this state may not consider  
6 race, color or national origin in the enforcement of this section except  
7 to the extent permitted by the United States CONSTITUTION or Arizona  
8 Constitution.

9 D. In the enforcement of this section, an alien's immigration  
10 status may be determined by:

11 1. A law enforcement officer who is authorized by the federal  
12 government to verify or ascertain an alien's immigration status.

13 2. The United States immigration and customs enforcement or the  
14 United States customs and border protection pursuant to 8 United States  
15 Code section 1373(c).

16 E. This section does not apply to a child safety worker acting in  
17 the worker's official capacity or a person who is acting in the capacity  
18 of a first responder, an ambulance attendant, AN AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT  
19 or an emergency medical technician and who is transporting or moving an  
20 alien in this state pursuant to title 36, chapter 21.1.

21 F. A person who violates this section is guilty of a class 1  
22 misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of at least ~~one thousand dollars~~  
23 \$1,000, except that a violation of this section that involves ten or more  
24 illegal aliens is a class 6 felony and the person is subject to a fine of  
25 at least ~~one thousand dollars~~ \$1,000 for each alien who is involved.

26 Sec. 3. Section 32-1471, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
27 read:

28 32-1471. Health care providers; other persons; emergency aid;  
29 nonliability

30 Any health care provider WHO IS licensed or certified to practice as  
31 such in this state or elsewhere, ~~or~~ a licensed ambulance attendant, AIR  
32 AMBULANCE ATTENDANT, driver or AMBULANCE pilot as defined in section  
33 41-1831, ~~or~~ any other person who renders emergency care at a public  
34 gathering or at the scene of an emergency occurrence gratuitously and in  
35 good faith ~~shall~~ IS not ~~be~~ liable for any civil or other damages as the  
36 result of any act or omission by ~~such~~ THE person rendering the emergency  
37 care, or as the result of any act or failure to act to provide or arrange  
38 for further medical treatment or care for the injured persons, unless ~~such~~  
39 THE person, while rendering such emergency care, is guilty of gross  
40 negligence.

41 Sec. 4. Section 36-661, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
42 read:

43 36-661. Definitions

44 In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1           1. "Acquired immune deficiency syndrome" has the same meaning as  
2 defined by the centers for disease control of the United States public  
3 health service.
- 4           2. "Capacity to consent" means a person's ability, determined  
5 without regard to the person's age, to understand and appreciate the  
6 nature and consequences of a proposed health care service, treatment or  
7 procedure and to make an informed decision concerning that service,  
8 treatment or procedure.
- 9           3. "Child" means an unemancipated person WHO IS under eighteen  
10 years of age.
- 11           4. "Communicable disease" means a contagious, epidemic or  
12 infectious disease THAT IS required to be reported to the local board of  
13 health or the department pursuant to chapter 1 of this title and this  
14 chapter.
- 15           5. "Communicable disease related information" means information  
16 regarding a communicable disease THAT IS in the possession of a person who  
17 provides health services or who obtains the information pursuant to the  
18 release of communicable disease related information.
- 19           6. "Contact" means a spouse or sex partner of a protected person, a  
20 person who has shared hypodermic needles or syringes with a protected  
21 person or a person WHO IS otherwise exposed to a protected person with a  
22 communicable disease in a manner that poses an epidemiologically  
23 significant risk of transmission of that disease.
- 24           7. "Department" means the department ~~of health services~~.
- 25           8. "Director" means the director of the department of health  
26 services.
- 27           9. "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, a  
28 firefighter, AN AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 36-2201 or  
29 an ambulance attendant as defined in section 36-2201.
- 30           10. "Good Samaritan" means a person who renders emergency care or  
31 assistance in good faith and without compensation at the scene of any  
32 accident, fire or other life-threatening emergency and who believes that a  
33 significant exposure risk occurred while the person rendered care or  
34 assistance.
- 35           11. "Health care decision maker" has the same meaning prescribed in  
36 section 12-2801.
- 37           12. "Health care provider" means a physician, nurse or other person  
38 involved in providing health services.
- 39           13. "Health facility" means a health care institution as defined in  
40 section 36-401, a blood bank, blood center, milk bank, sperm bank, organ  
41 or tissue bank or clinical laboratory or a health care services  
42 organization holding a certificate of authority pursuant to section  
43 20-1054.
- 44           14. "Health service" means public or private care, treatment,  
45 clinical laboratory tests, counseling or educational service for adults or

1 children and acute, chronic, custodial, residential, outpatient, home or  
2 other health care or activities related to ~~the detection~~ DETECTING,  
3 reporting, ~~prevention~~ PREVENTING and ~~control of~~ CONTROLLING communicable  
4 or preventable diseases.

5 15. "HIV" means the human immunodeficiency virus.

6 16. "HIV infection" means infection with the human immunodeficiency  
7 virus or a related virus identified as a probable causative agent of  
8 acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

9 17. "HIV-related illness" means an illness that may result from or  
10 be associated with HIV infection.

11 18. "HIV-related information" means information concerning whether  
12 a person has had an HIV-related test or has AN HIV infection, AN  
13 HIV-related illness or acquired immune deficiency syndrome and includes  
14 information that identifies or reasonably ~~permits~~ ALLOWS identification of  
15 that person or the person's contacts.

16 19. "HIV-related test" means a laboratory test or series of tests  
17 for the virus, components of the virus or antibodies to the virus thought  
18 to indicate the presence of HIV infection.

19 20. "Occupational significant exposure risk" means a significant  
20 exposure risk that occurs in the performance of a health care provider's  
21 professional duties or a first responder's official duties.

22 21. "Protected person" means a person who takes an HIV-related test  
23 or who has been diagnosed as having AN HIV infection, acquired immune  
24 deficiency syndrome, AN HIV-related illness or another communicable  
25 disease.

26 22. "Significant exposure risk" means contact with another person  
27 in a manner that, if the other person has a communicable disease, poses an  
28 epidemiologically significant risk of transmission of that disease as  
29 determined by the department.

30 Sec. 5. Section 36-2201, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
31 read:

32 36-2201. Definitions

33 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

34 1. "Administrative medical direction" means supervision of  
35 emergency medical care technicians by a base hospital medical director,  
36 administrative medical director or basic life support medical director.  
37 For the purposes of this paragraph, "administrative medical director"  
38 means a physician ~~who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17~~  
39 ~~and~~ who provides direction within the emergency medical services and  
40 trauma system.

41 2. "Advanced emergency medical technician" means a person who has  
42 been trained in an advanced emergency medical technician program certified  
43 by the director or in an equivalent training program and who is certified  
44 by the director to render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

1           3. "Advanced life support" means the level of assessment and care  
2 identified in the scope of practice approved by the director for the  
3 advanced emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician I-99  
4 and paramedic.

5           4. "Advanced life support base hospital" means a health care  
6 institution that offers general medical and surgical services, that is  
7 certified by the director as an advanced life support base hospital and  
8 that is affiliated by written agreement with a licensed ambulance service,  
9 AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE, municipal rescue service, fire department, fire  
10 district or health services district for medical direction, evaluation and  
11 control of emergency medical care technicians.

12           5. "AIR AMBULANCE" MEANS ANY PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OWNED AIRCRAFT  
13 THAT IS CERTIFICATED UNDER 14 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 135, THAT  
14 CONTAINS A STRETCHER AND NECESSARY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES PURSUANT  
15 TO SECTION 36-2202 AND THAT IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED OR  
16 MODIFIED AND EQUIPPED TO BE USED, MAINTAINED OR OPERATED PRIMARILY TO  
17 TRANSPORT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SICK, INJURED OR WOUNDED OR WHO REQUIRE  
18 MEDICAL MONITORING OR AID.

19           6. "AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT" MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

20           (a) A PARAMEDIC WHOSE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS CARING FOR PATIENTS  
21 IN AN AIR AMBULANCE AND WHO MEETS THE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA ADOPTED  
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 36-2204.

23           (b) A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32,  
24 CHAPTER 35.

25           (c) A PHYSICIAN.

26           (d) A PROFESSIONAL NURSE WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32,  
27 CHAPTER 15 AND WHOSE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS CARING FOR PATIENTS IN AN  
28 AIR AMBULANCE.

29           (e) A NURSE PRACTITIONER WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32,  
30 CHAPTER 15.

31           7. "AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE" MEANS A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT OWNS  
32 AND OPERATES ONE OR MORE AIR AMBULANCES OR THAT LEASES FROM AN AIR CARRIER  
33 THE USE OF ONE OR MORE AIR AMBULANCES THAT ARE CERTIFICATED UNDER 14 CODE  
34 OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 135 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY  
35 MEDICAL SERVICES IN AIR AMBULANCES.

36           ~~5-~~ 8. "Ambulance":

37           (a) Means any publicly or privately owned surface, ~~OR~~ water ~~or air~~  
38 vehicle, ~~including a helicopter,~~ that contains a stretcher and necessary  
39 medical equipment and supplies pursuant to section 36-2202 and that is  
40 ~~especially~~ SPECIFICALLY designed and constructed or modified and equipped  
41 to be used, maintained or operated primarily to transport individuals who  
42 are sick, injured or wounded or who require medical monitoring or aid.

43           (b) Does not include a surface vehicle that is owned and operated  
44 by a private sole proprietor, partnership, private corporation or  
45 municipal corporation for the emergency transportation and in-transit care

1 of its employees or a vehicle that is operated to accommodate an  
2 incapacitated person or person with a disability who does not require  
3 medical monitoring, care or treatment during transport and that is not  
4 advertised as having medical equipment and supplies or ambulance  
5 attendants.

6 ~~6.~~ 9. "Ambulance attendant" means any of the following:

7 (a) An emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency medical  
8 technician, an emergency medical technician I-99 or a paramedic whose  
9 primary responsibility is the care of patients in an ambulance and who  
10 meets the standards and criteria adopted pursuant to section 36-2204.

11 (b) An emergency medical responder who is employed by an ambulance  
12 service operating under section 36-2202 and whose primary responsibility  
13 is driving an ambulance.

14 (c) A physician ~~who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13~~  
15 ~~or 17.~~

16 (d) A professional nurse who is licensed pursuant to title 32,  
17 chapter 15 and who meets the ARIZONA state board of nursing criteria to  
18 care for patients in the prehospital care system.

19 (e) A professional nurse who is licensed pursuant to title 32,  
20 chapter 15 and whose primary responsibility is the care of patients in an  
21 ambulance during an interfacility transport.

22 ~~7.~~ 10. "Ambulance service" means a person who owns and operates  
23 one or more ambulances.

24 ~~8.~~ 11. "Basic life support" means the level of assessment and care  
25 identified in the scope of practice approved by the director for the  
26 emergency medical responder and emergency medical technician.

27 ~~9.~~ 12. "Bureau" means the bureau of emergency medical services and  
28 trauma system in the department.

29 ~~10.~~ 13. "Centralized medical direction communications center"  
30 means a facility that is housed within a hospital, medical center or  
31 trauma center or a freestanding communication center that meets the  
32 following criteria:

33 (a) Has the ability to communicate with ambulance services and  
34 emergency medical services providers rendering patient care outside of the  
35 hospital setting via radio and telephone.

36 (b) Is staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, by at  
37 least a physician ~~licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17.~~

38 ~~11.~~ 14. "Certificate of necessity" means a certificate that is  
39 issued to an ambulance service by the department and that describes the  
40 following:

41 (a) The service area.

42 (b) The level of service.

43 (c) The type of service.

44 (d) The hours of operation.

45 (e) The effective date.

- 1 (f) The expiration date.
- 2 (g) The legal name and address of the ambulance service.
- 3 (h) The any limiting or special provisions the director prescribes.
- 4 ~~12.~~ 15. "Council" means the emergency medical services council.
- 5 ~~13.~~ 16. "Department" means the department of health services.
- 6 ~~14.~~ 17. "Director" means the director of the department ~~of health~~
- 7 ~~services.~~
- 8 ~~15.~~ 18. "Emergency medical care technician" means an individual
- 9 who has been certified by the department as an emergency medical
- 10 technician, an advanced emergency medical technician, an emergency medical
- 11 technician I-99 or a paramedic.
- 12 ~~16.~~ 19. "Emergency medical responder" as an ambulance attendant
- 13 whose primary responsibility is driving an ambulance, ~~OR AN AIR AMBULANCE~~
- 14 ~~ATTENDANT~~, means a person who has successfully completed training in an
- 15 emergency medical responder program that is certified by the director or
- 16 is approved by the emergency medical services provider's administrative
- 17 medical director on file with the department or in an equivalent training
- 18 program.
- 19 ~~17.~~ 20. "Emergency medical responder program" means a program that
- 20 has been submitted for review by the department and includes at least the
- 21 following:
- 22 (a) Emergency vehicle driver training.
- 23 (b) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification.
- 24 (c) Automated external defibrillator training.
- 25 (d) Training in the use of noninvasive diagnostic devices,
- 26 including blood glucose monitors and pulse oximeters.
- 27 (e) Training on obtaining a patient's vital signs, including blood
- 28 pressure, pulse and respiratory rate.
- 29 ~~18.~~ 21. "Emergency medical services" means those services required
- 30 following an accident or an emergency medical situation:
- 31 (a) For on-site emergency medical care.
- 32 (b) To transport the sick or injured by a licensed ~~ground~~ ~~AMBULANCE~~
- 33 or air ambulance.
- 34 (c) In using emergency communications media.
- 35 (d) In using emergency receiving facilities.
- 36 (e) In administering initial care and preliminary treatment
- 37 procedures by emergency medical care technicians.
- 38 ~~19.~~ 22. "Emergency medical services provider" means any
- 39 governmental entity, quasi-governmental entity or corporation, whether
- 40 public or private, that renders emergency medical services in this state.
- 41 ~~20.~~ 23. "Emergency medical technician" means a person who has been
- 42 trained in an emergency medical technician program certified by the
- 43 director or in an equivalent training program and who is certified by the
- 44 director as qualified to render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

1           ~~21.~~ 24. "Emergency receiving facility" means a licensed health  
2 care institution that offers emergency medical services, is staffed  
3 twenty-four hours a day and has a physician on call.

4           ~~22.~~ 25. "Epinephrine delivery system" means a single-use device or  
5 product that contains a premeasured dose of epinephrine and that is  
6 approved by the United States food and drug administration to prevent or  
7 treat a life-threatening allergic reaction.

8           ~~23.~~ 26. "Fit and proper" means that the director determines that  
9 an applicant for a certificate of necessity or a certificate holder has  
10 the expertise, integrity, fiscal competence and resources to provide  
11 ambulance service in the service area.

12           ~~24.~~ 27. "Medical record" means any patient record, including  
13 clinical records, prehospital care records, medical reports, laboratory  
14 reports and statements, any file, film, record or report or oral  
15 statements relating to diagnostic findings, treatment or outcome of  
16 patients, whether written, electronic or recorded, and any information  
17 from which a patient or the patient's family might be identified.

18           ~~25.~~ 28. "National certification organization" means a national  
19 organization that tests and certifies the ability of an emergency medical  
20 care technician and whose tests are based on national education standards.

21           ~~26.~~ 29. "National education standards" means the emergency medical  
22 services education standards of the United States department of  
23 transportation or other similar emergency medical services education  
24 standards developed by that department or its successor agency.

25           ~~27.~~ 30. "Paramedic" means a person who has been trained in a  
26 paramedic program certified by the director or in an equivalent training  
27 program and who is certified by the director to render services pursuant  
28 to section 36-2205.

29           ~~28.~~ 31. "Physician" means any person WHO IS licensed pursuant to  
30 title 32, chapter 13 or 17.

31           ~~29.~~ 32. "Police dog":

32           (a) Means a specially trained dog that is owned or used by a law  
33 enforcement department or agency of this state or any political  
34 subdivision of this state and that is used in the course of the  
35 department's or agency's official work.

36           (b) Includes a search and rescue dog, service dog, accelerant  
37 detection canine or other dog that is in use by the law enforcement  
38 department or agency for official duties.

39           ~~30.~~ 33. "Stretcher van" means a vehicle that contains a stretcher  
40 and that is operated to accommodate an incapacitated person or person with  
41 a disability who does not require medical monitoring, aid, care or  
42 treatment during transport.

43           ~~31.~~ 34. "Suboperation station" means a physical facility or  
44 location at which an ambulance service conducts operations for the

1 dispatch of ambulances and personnel and that may be staffed twenty-four  
2 hours a day or less as determined by system use.

3 ~~32.~~ 35. "Trauma center" means any acute care hospital that  
4 provides in-house twenty-four-hour daily dedicated trauma surgical  
5 services that is designated pursuant to section 36-2225.

6 ~~33.~~ 36. "Trauma registry" means data collected by the department  
7 on trauma patients and on the incidence, causes, severity, outcomes and  
8 operation of a trauma system and its components.

9 ~~34.~~ 37. "Trauma system" means an integrated and organized  
10 arrangement of health care resources having the specific capability to  
11 perform triage, transport and provide care.

12 ~~35.~~ 38. "Validated testing procedure" means a testing procedure  
13 that includes practical skills, or attests practical skills proficiency on  
14 a form developed by the department by the educational training program,  
15 identified pursuant to section 36-2204, paragraph 2, that is certified as  
16 valid by an organization capable of determining testing procedure and  
17 testing content validity and that is recommended by the medical direction  
18 commission and the emergency medical services council before the  
19 director's approval.

20 ~~36.~~ 39. "Wheelchair van" means a vehicle that contains or that is  
21 designed and constructed or modified to contain a wheelchair and that is  
22 operated to accommodate an incapacitated person or person with a  
23 disability who does not require medical monitoring, aid, care or treatment  
24 during transport.

25 Sec. 6. Section 36-2202, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
26 read:

27 36-2202. Duties of the director; qualifications of medical  
28 director

29 A. The director shall:

30 1. Appoint a medical director of the emergency medical services and  
31 trauma system.

32 2. Adopt standards and criteria for the denial or granting of  
33 certification and recertification of emergency medical care technicians.  
34 These standards shall allow the department to certify qualified emergency  
35 medical care technicians who have completed statewide standardized  
36 training required under section 36-2204, paragraph 1 and a standardized  
37 certification test required under section 36-2204, paragraph 2, who hold  
38 valid certification with a national certification organization or who have  
39 completed training and testing by the United States armed forces at a  
40 level comparable to the national standards for emergency medical care  
41 technicians. Before the director may consider approving a statewide  
42 standardized training or a standardized certification test, or both, each  
43 of these must first be recommended by the medical direction commission and  
44 the emergency medical services council to ensure that the standardized  
45 training content is consistent with national education standards and that

1 the standardized certification test examines comparable material to that  
2 examined in the tests of a national certification organization.

3 3. Adopt standards and criteria that pertain to the quality of  
4 emergency care pursuant to section 36-2204.

5 4. Adopt rules necessary to carry out this chapter. Each rule  
6 shall identify all sections and subsections of this chapter under which  
7 the rule was formulated.

8 5. Adopt reasonable medical equipment, supply, staffing and safety  
9 standards, criteria and procedures to issue a certificate of registration  
10 to operate an ambulance OR AIR AMBULANCE.

11 6. Maintain a state system for recertifying emergency medical care  
12 technicians, except as otherwise provided by section 36-2202.01, that is  
13 independent from any national certification organization recertification  
14 process. This system shall allow emergency medical care technicians to  
15 choose to be recertified under the state or the national certification  
16 organization recertification system subject to subsection H of this  
17 section.

18 B. Emergency medical technicians who choose the state  
19 recertification process shall recertify in one of the following ways:

20 1. Successfully completing an emergency medical technician  
21 refresher course approved by the department.

22 2. Successfully completing an emergency medical technician  
23 challenge course approved by the department.

24 3. For emergency medical care technicians who are currently  
25 certified at the emergency medical technician level by the department,  
26 attesting on a form provided by the department that the applicant holds a  
27 valid and current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification, has and  
28 will maintain documented proof of a minimum of twenty-four hours of  
29 continuing medical education within the last two years consistent with  
30 department rules and has functioned in the capacity of an emergency  
31 medical technician for at least two hundred forty hours during the last  
32 two years.

33 C. After consultation with the emergency medical services council,  
34 the director may authorize pilot programs designed to improve the safety  
35 and efficiency of ambulance AND AIR AMBULANCE inspections for governmental  
36 or quasi-governmental entities that provide emergency medical services in  
37 this state.

38 D. The rules, standards and criteria adopted by the director  
39 pursuant to subsection A, paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this section shall  
40 be adopted in accordance with title 41, chapter 6, except that the  
41 director may adopt on an emergency basis pursuant to section 41-1026 rules  
42 relating to the regulation of ambulance services AND AIR AMBULANCE  
43 SERVICES in this state necessary to protect the public peace, health and  
44 safety in advance of adopting rules, standards and criteria as otherwise  
45 provided by this subsection.

1 E. The director may waive the requirement for compliance with a  
2 protocol adopted pursuant to section 36-2205 if the director determines  
3 that the techniques, drug formularies or training makes the protocol  
4 inconsistent with contemporary medical practices.

5 F. The director may suspend a protocol adopted pursuant to  
6 section 36-2205 if the director does all of the following:

7 1. Determines that the rule is not in the public's best interest.

8 2. Initiates procedures pursuant to title 41, chapter 6 to repeal  
9 the rule.

10 3. Notifies all interested parties in writing of the director's  
11 action and the reasons for that action. Parties interested in receiving  
12 notification shall submit a written request to the director.

13 G. To be eligible for appointment as the medical director of the  
14 emergency medical services and trauma system, the person shall be  
15 qualified in emergency medicine and shall be licensed as a physician in  
16 one of the states of the United States.

17 H. Applicants for certification shall apply to the director for  
18 certification. Emergency medical care technicians shall apply for  
19 recertification to the director every two years. The director may extend  
20 the expiration date of an emergency medical care technician's certificate  
21 for thirty days. The department shall establish a fee for this extension  
22 by rule. Emergency medical care technicians shall pass an examination  
23 administered by the department as a condition for recertification only if  
24 required to do so by the advanced life support base hospital's medical  
25 director or the emergency medical care technician's medical director.

26 I. The medical director of the emergency medical services and  
27 trauma system is exempt from title 41, chapter 4, articles 5 and 6 and is  
28 entitled to receive compensation pursuant to section 38-611, subsection A.

29 J. The standards, criteria and procedures adopted by the director  
30 pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 5 of this section shall require that  
31 ambulance services **AND AIR AMBULANCES SERVICES:**

32 1. Providing interfacility transportation, **BY AN AMBULANCE**, in any  
33 certificate of necessity area of this state have one ambulance attendant  
34 as defined in section 36-2201, paragraph ~~6~~ 9, subdivision (a), (c), (d)  
35 or (e) and one ambulance attendant as defined in section 36-2201,  
36 paragraph ~~6~~ 9, subdivision (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) staffing an  
37 ambulance while transporting a patient. If an ambulance attendant as  
38 defined in section 36-2201, paragraph ~~6~~ 9, subdivision (b) is staffing  
39 the ambulance pursuant to this paragraph, that ambulance attendant may  
40 exclusively drive the ambulance.

41 2. **PROVIDING INTERFACILITY TRANSPORTATION, BY AN AIR AMBULANCE,**  
42 **HAVE ONE AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 36-2201, PARAGRAPH**  
43 **6, SUBDIVISION (c), (d) OR (e) AND ONE AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT AS DEFINED**  
44 **IN SECTION 36-2201, PARAGRAPH 6, SUBDIVISION (a), (b) OR (d) STAFFING AN**  
45 **AIR AMBULANCE WHILE TRANSPORTING A PATIENT.**



1           8. One representative from a nongovernmental employer of emergency  
2 medical technicians I-99.

3           9. One representative from the state fire districts.

4           10. One physician who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13  
5 or 17 and who specializes in trauma surgery.

6           11. One representative of a prehospital emergency medical training  
7 program.

8           12. Six public members.

9           13. One representative of a volunteer medical rescue program.

10          B. Public members of the council are eligible to receive  
11 compensation pursuant to section 38-611.

12          C. This section is repealed from and after January 1, 2028.

13          Sec. 8. Section 36-2204, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
14 read:

15           36-2204. Medical control; standards and criteria

16           The medical director of the statewide emergency medical services and  
17 trauma system, the emergency medical services council and the medical  
18 direction commission shall recommend to the director OF THE DEPARTMENT the  
19 following standards and criteria that pertain to the quality of emergency  
20 patient care:

21           1. Statewide standardized training, certification and  
22 recertification standards for all classifications of emergency medical  
23 care technicians.

24           2. A standardized and validated testing procedure for all  
25 classifications of emergency medical care technicians.

26           3. Medical standards for certification and recertification of  
27 training programs for all classifications of emergency medical care  
28 technicians.

29           4. Standardized continuing education criteria for all  
30 classifications of emergency medical care technicians.

31           5. Medical standards for certification and recertification of  
32 certified emergency receiving facilities and advanced life support base  
33 hospitals and approval of physicians providing medical control or medical  
34 direction for any classification of emergency medical care technicians who  
35 are required to be under medical control or medical direction.

36           6. Standards and mechanisms for monitoring and ongoing evaluation  
37 of performance levels of all classifications of emergency medical care  
38 technicians, emergency receiving facilities and advanced life support base  
39 hospitals and approval of physicians providing medical control or medical  
40 direction for any classification of emergency medical care technicians who  
41 are required to be under medical control or medical direction.

42           7. Objective criteria and mechanisms for decertification of all  
43 classifications of emergency medical care technicians, emergency receiving  
44 facilities and advanced life support base hospitals and for disapproval of  
45 physicians providing medical control or medical direction for any

1 classification of emergency care technicians who are required to be under  
2 medical control or medical direction.

3 8. Medical standards for nonphysician prehospital treatment and  
4 prehospital triage of patients requiring emergency medical services.

5 9. Standards for emergency medical ~~dispatcher~~ DISPATCH training,  
6 including prearrival instructions. For the purposes of this paragraph,  
7 "emergency medical dispatch" means the receipt of calls requesting  
8 emergency medical services and the response of appropriate resources to  
9 the appropriate location.

10 10. Standards for a quality assurance process for components of the  
11 statewide emergency medical services and trauma system, including  
12 standards for maintaining the confidentiality of the information  
13 considered in the course of quality assurance and the records of the  
14 quality assurance activities pursuant to section 36-2403.

15 11. Standards for ambulance ~~service~~ SERVICES, AIR AMBULANCE  
16 SERVICES and medical transportation that give consideration to the  
17 differences between urban, rural and wilderness areas.

18 12. Standards to allow an ambulance to transport a patient to a  
19 health care institution that is licensed as a special hospital and that is  
20 physically connected to an emergency receiving facility.

21 Sec. 9. Section 36-2204.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
22 read:

23 36-2204.02. Emergency medical services providers; ambulance  
24 services; air ambulance services;  
25 investigations of employees

26 A. In lieu of the requirements of section 36-2211, the director may  
27 authorize an ambulance service, AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE or emergency medical  
28 services provider to investigate, discipline or determine the fitness of  
29 an employee to continue to provide patient care. This authority does not  
30 apply to the conviction of, a plea of guilty or no contest to or admission  
31 in a court proceeding to the elements of a felony. The employer listed on  
32 the emergency medical care technician's, ~~or~~ ambulance attendant's OR AIR  
33 AMBULANCE ATTENDANT'S certification or recertification application may  
34 limit the practice of the emergency medical care technician, ~~or~~ ambulance  
35 attendant OR AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT during the investigation if the  
36 employer meets all of the following requirements:

37 1. Has separate investigative or supervisory staff to conduct an  
38 investigation.

39 2. Has an employee assistance program for counseling.

40 3. Has policies and procedures for drug testing through urinalysis  
41 or other generally accepted methods.

42 4. Has policies and procedures for monitoring ~~of~~ personnel who are  
43 suspected of or who have been convicted of substance abuse.

44 B. An ambulance service, AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE or emergency medical  
45 services provider that conducts its own disciplinary investigations

1 pursuant to subsection A of this section shall report the following to the  
2 medical director of the emergency medical services and trauma system:

3 1. The nature of the allegation.

4 2. The level of patient care being delivered by the employee and  
5 the supervision of the employee during the investigation or rehabilitative  
6 period, or both.

7 3. The final outcome of the investigation and the final  
8 recommendation on the employee's certification status.

9 C. The decisions of the employer UNDER THIS SECTION are appealable  
10 under the employer's personnel policies and procedures. Except as  
11 provided in section 41-1092.08, subsection H, the final administrative  
12 decisions of the director are subject to judicial review pursuant to title  
13 12, chapter 7, article 6.

14 Sec. 10. Section 36-2209, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
15 read:

16 36-2209. Powers and duties of the director

17 A. The director shall:

18 1. Appoint and define the duties and prescribe the terms of  
19 employment of all employees of the bureau.

20 2. Adopt rules necessary for the operation of the bureau and for  
21 carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

22 3. Cooperate with and assist the personnel of emergency receiving  
23 facilities and other health care institutions in preparing a plan to be  
24 followed by ~~these~~ EMERGENCY RECEIVING facilities and HEALTH CARE  
25 institutions in the event of a major disaster.

26 4. Cooperate with the state director of emergency management when a  
27 state of emergency or a state of war emergency has been declared by the  
28 governor.

29 B. The director may:

30 1. Request the cooperation of utilities, communications media and  
31 public and private agencies to aid and assist in ~~the implementation~~  
32 IMPLEMENTING and ~~maintenance of~~ MAINTAINING a statewide emergency medical  
33 services system.

34 2. Enter into contracts and agreements with any local governmental  
35 entity, agency, facility or group that provides a similar program of  
36 emergency medical services in a contiguous state.

37 3. Enter into contracts and agreements ~~for the acquisition~~ TO  
38 ACQUIRE and purchase ~~of~~ any equipment, tools, supplies, materials and  
39 services necessary ~~in the administration of~~ TO ADMINISTER this chapter.

40 4. Enter into contracts with emergency receiving facilities,  
41 governmental entities, emergency rescue services, AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES  
42 and ambulance services, ~~and the director may~~ establish emergency medical  
43 services, including emergency receiving facilities, if necessary to ~~assure~~  
44 ENSURE the availability and quality of ~~these~~ EMERGENCY MEDICAL services.



1 article and by paying a renewal fee prescribed by the director. The fee  
2 for initial registration and registration renewal shall not exceed \$50 for  
3 each ambulance **OR AIR AMBULANCE**. The department shall base these fees on  
4 an amount that approximates the per vehicle costs incurred by the  
5 department to administer this chapter. The director shall deposit,  
6 pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, fees collected under this  
7 subsection in the state general fund. The department shall not charge a  
8 registration fee for an ambulance to an ambulance service that operates an  
9 ambulance or ambulances, **OR A REGISTRATION FEE FOR AN AIR AMBULANCE TO AN**  
10 **AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE THAT OPERATES AN AIR AMBULANCE OR AIR AMBULANCES**,  
11 only as a volunteer not-for-profit service.

12 ~~E. Notwithstanding the period of time for which a certificate of~~  
13 ~~registration is valid pursuant to subsection D of this section, if the~~  
14 ~~certificate of registration holder timely submits a complete renewal~~  
15 ~~application in compliance with this article and the rules adopted pursuant~~  
16 ~~to this article and the department is unable to perform an inspection of~~  
17 ~~an ambulance within the time frame prescribed by section 36-2232,~~  
18 ~~subsection A, paragraph 13, the department may allow an ambulance's~~  
19 ~~registration to remain valid and in effect until the department completes~~  
20 ~~the required inspection.~~

21 Sec. 12. Repeal

22 Section 36-2212, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by Laws 2025,  
23 chapter 212, section 2, is repealed.

24 Sec. 13. Section 36-2213, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
25 read:

26 **36-2213. Air ambulance services; rules**

27 The director shall adopt rules to establish minimum standards for  
28 the operation of air ambulance services that are necessary to ~~assure~~  
29 **ENSURE** the public health and safety. The director may use the current  
30 standards adopted by the commission on accreditation of air medical  
31 services. Each rule shall reference the specific authority from this  
32 chapter under which the rule was formulated. The rules shall provide for  
33 the department to do the following:

34 1. Establish standards and requirements relating to at least the  
35 following:

36 (a) Medical control plans. These plans shall conform to the  
37 standards adopted pursuant to section 36-2204, paragraph 9.

38 (b) Qualifications of the medical director of the air ambulance  
39 services.

40 (c) Operation of only those air ambulances registered pursuant to  
41 section 36-2212 and licensed pursuant to title 28, chapter 25.

42 ~~2. Establish response times and operation times to assure that the~~  
43 ~~health and safety needs of the public are met.~~



1 B. A person who violates subsection A **OF THIS SECTION** is guilty of a  
2 class 1 misdemeanor.

3 Sec. 16. Section 36-2217, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
4 read:

5 **36-2217. Exemption from regulation**

6 A. This chapter does not apply to:

7 1. Vehicles used for the emergency transportation of persons  
8 injured at an industrial site.

9 2. Persons engaged in and vehicles used for air transportation of  
10 sick or injured people in a noncritical or nonemergency situation as  
11 determined by a physician.

12 3. Medical evacuation equipment used and owned by the department of  
13 public safety in air, ground or water evacuation and including fixed wing  
14 aircraft, helicopters, ground ambulances and similar ground conveyances,  
15 snowmobiles and water traversing equipment.

16 4. Vehicles provided or contracted for emergency medical services  
17 by a political subdivision if these vehicles are primarily used to provide  
18 on the scene stabilization of sick, injured, wounded, incapacitated or  
19 helpless persons.

20 5. Ambulances **AND AIR AMBULANCES** from other states that are:

21 (a) Responding to a major catastrophe or emergency in this state  
22 because there are insufficient registered ambulances in this state to  
23 respond in that situation.

24 (b) Operating either from a location outside of this state to  
25 transport a patient to a location within this state or operating from a  
26 location outside of this state and crossing through this state to  
27 transport a patient to a location outside this state.

28 6. Stretcher vans that meet the requirements of section 36-2223.

29 B. Except as provided in subsection A, paragraph 5, subdivision (a)  
30 of this section, an ambulance **OR AN AIR AMBULANCE** from another state shall  
31 not pick up a patient in this state and transport that patient to another  
32 location in this state unless that ambulance **OR AIR AMBULANCE** is  
33 registered under this chapter.

34 Sec. 17. Section 36-2226.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended  
35 to read:

36 **36-2226.02. Administration of epinephrine; first responders;**  
37 **immunity; definitions**

38 A. A first responder who is trained in administering epinephrine  
39 injections may administer an epinephrine injection or epinephrine delivery  
40 system to a person who the first responder believes in good faith is  
41 experiencing anaphylaxis pursuant to a standing order issued by any of the  
42 following:

43 1. A physician ~~licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17.~~

44 2. A naturopathic physician licensed pursuant to title 32,  
45 chapter 14.

1           3. A physician assistant licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 25.

2           4. A nurse practitioner licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 15  
3 who is authorized by law to prescribe drugs.

4           B. The following individuals are immune from professional liability  
5 and criminal prosecution for any decision made, act or omission or injury  
6 that results from ~~that~~ AN act PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION  
7 if the person acts with reasonable care and in good faith, except in cases  
8 of wanton or wilful neglect:

9           1. Physicians who ~~are licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or~~  
10 ~~17 and who~~ issue a standing order.

11           2. Naturopathic physicians who are licensed pursuant to title 32,  
12 chapter 14 and who issue a standing order.

13           3. Physician assistants who are licensed pursuant to title 32,  
14 chapter 25 and who issue a standing order.

15           4. Nurse practitioners who are licensed pursuant to title 32,  
16 chapter 15 and authorized by law to prescribe drugs and who issue a  
17 standing order.

18           5. First responders who administer epinephrine injections or  
19 epinephrine delivery systems pursuant to this section.

20           C. This section does not create a duty to act or standard of care  
21 for a first responder to administer an epinephrine injection or epinephrine  
22 delivery system.

23           D. For the purposes of this section:

24           1. "Ambulance attendant" means ~~either~~ ANY of the following:

25           (a) An emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency medical  
26 technician, an emergency medical technician I-99 or a paramedic whose  
27 primary responsibility is ~~the care of~~ CARING FOR patients in an ambulance  
28 and who meets the standards and criteria adopted pursuant to section  
29 36-2204.

30           (b) An emergency medical responder who is employed by an ambulance  
31 service operating under section 36-2202 and whose primary responsibility  
32 is ~~the~~ driving ~~of~~ an ambulance.

33           (c) AN AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT.

34           2. "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, a firefighter  
35 or an ambulance attendant.

36           Sec. 18. Section 36-2230, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
37 read:

38           36-2230. Ambulance services; police dogs; authorization;  
39 policies and procedures; immunity; billing

40           A. Each ambulance service shall require its emergency medical care  
41 technicians and ambulance attendants as defined in section 36-2201,  
42 paragraph ~~6~~ 9, subdivision (b) to transport a police dog that is injured  
43 in the line of duty, along with a police officer who is trained in dog  
44 handling, if available, or other police personnel who are medically  
45 trained, by a ground ambulance or another emergency medical services

1 vehicle to a veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital equipped to provide  
2 emergency treatment to dogs, if all of the following apply:

3 1. A person is not requiring emergency medical treatment or  
4 transport by the ground ambulance or other emergency medical services  
5 vehicle at that time.

6 2. The transport is not expected to take more than thirty minutes  
7 from the point of pickup to the veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital.

8 3. The ambulance service has at least one additional ground  
9 ambulance in service and available to respond to emergency calls.

10 4. The transport by a police officer in the police officer's  
11 emergency vehicle is not deemed to be more safe and more expeditious than  
12 transport by a ground ambulance.

13 B. An ambulance service may authorize its emergency medical care  
14 technicians, if trained, to provide emergency treatment to a police dog  
15 that is injured in the line of duty.

16 C. Each ambulance service may develop written policies and  
17 procedures for all of the following:

18 1. Appropriate training of the ambulance service's emergency  
19 medical care technician personnel to provide police dogs with basic level  
20 first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and lifesaving interventions,  
21 including administering naloxone, that are developed in consultation with  
22 a veterinarian who is licensed in this state.

23 2. Safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including the  
24 use of a muzzle, and response coordination with a law enforcement agency  
25 member who is trained in handling police dogs, that are developed in  
26 consultation with a veterinarian who is licensed in this state and a law  
27 enforcement police dog handler or trainer.

28 3. Identification of local veterinary facilities that will provide  
29 emergency treatment of injured police dogs on short notice.

30 4. Proper and complete decontamination of stretchers, the patient  
31 compartment and all contaminated medical equipment after a police dog has  
32 been transported by a ground ambulance or other emergency medical services  
33 vehicle.

34 5. Sterilization of the interior of a ground ambulance or other  
35 emergency medical services vehicle, including complete sanitizing of all  
36 allergens and disinfection to a standard safe for human transport before  
37 the ground ambulance or other vehicle is returned to human service.

38 D. Emergency medical care technicians and any other personnel  
39 certified under this chapter who in the performance of their duties and in  
40 good faith render emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation,  
41 transportation or other emergency medical services to an injured police  
42 dog pursuant to this section are not personally liable as a result of  
43 rendering such aid or services.

1 E. An ambulance service that provides transport for an injured  
2 police dog pursuant to this section may bill the governmental entity that  
3 owns the police dog for the cost of the transport.

4 F. This section does not preclude a police officer who is trained  
5 in dog handling of an injured police dog from choosing to transport the  
6 injured police dog in the police officer's own emergency vehicle.

7 Sec. 19. Section 36-2232, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
8 read:

9 36-2232. Director; powers and duties; regulation of ambulance  
10 services and air ambulance services; inspections;  
11 response time compliance; mileage rate calculation  
12 factors

13 A. The director shall adopt rules to regulate the operation of  
14 ambulances, ~~and~~ ambulance services, AIR AMBULANCES AND AIR AMBULANCE  
15 SERVICES in this state. Each rule shall identify all sections and  
16 subsections of this chapter under which the rule was formulated. The  
17 rules shall provide for the department to do the following:

18 1. Consistent with the requirements of subsection H of this  
19 section, determine, fix, alter and regulate just, reasonable and  
20 sufficient rates and charges for the provision of ambulances, including  
21 rates and charges for advanced life support service, basic life support  
22 service, patient loaded mileage, standby waiting, subscription service  
23 contracts and other contracts for services related to the provision of  
24 ambulances. The director shall inform all ambulance services of the  
25 procedures and methodology used to determine ambulance rates or charges.

26 2. Ensure THAT evidence-based quality patient care is the priority  
27 for decision-making.

28 3. Regulate operating and response times of ambulances to meet the  
29 needs of the public and to ensure adequate service. The rules adopted by  
30 the director for certificated ambulance service response times shall  
31 include uniform standards for urban, suburban, rural and wilderness  
32 geographic areas within the certificate of necessity based on, at a  
33 minimum, population density and geographic and medical considerations.  
34 The calculation of response times shall begin when the public safety  
35 answering point contacts an ambulance service for dispatch and conclude  
36 when the ambulance service arrives at the dispatched location. On-scene  
37 arrival times for response time measurement shall be documented by the  
38 ambulance service using dispatch or global positioning system data, or a  
39 combination of both, and kept on file. Response time data that is  
40 compliant with the health insurance portability and accountability act of  
41 1996 shall be filed annually with the department. When dispatch or global  
42 positioning system connectivity is not available, the ambulance service  
43 shall manually document on-scene arrival times for response time  
44 measurement. The response time data shall be filed in a

1 department-approved format, and the department shall make the response  
2 time data publicly available.

3 4. Review response times established pursuant to paragraph 3 of  
4 this subsection with the ambulance service and update the response times  
5 based on, at a minimum, population density and geographic and medical  
6 considerations, and the financial impact on rates and charges, every six  
7 years. One additional review each six-year period may be requested by a  
8 city, town, fire district or fire authority whose jurisdictional  
9 boundaries in whole or in part are within the service area of a  
10 certificate of necessity or an existing certificate of necessity holder  
11 within the service area of the certificate of necessity.

12 5. Determine, fix, alter and regulate bases of operation. The  
13 director may issue a certificate of necessity to more than one ambulance  
14 service within any base of operation. For the purposes of this paragraph,  
15 "base of operation" means a service area granted under a certificate of  
16 necessity.

17 6. Issue, amend, transfer, suspend or revoke certificates of  
18 necessity under terms consistent with this article.

19 7. Prescribe a uniform system of accounts to be used by ambulance  
20 services that conforms to standard accounting forms and principles for the  
21 ambulance industry and generally accepted accounting principles.

22 8. Require the filing of an annual financial report and other data.  
23 These rules shall require an ambulance service to file the report with the  
24 department not later than one hundred eighty days after the completion of  
25 its annual accounting period.

26 9. Regulate ambulance services in all matters affecting services to  
27 the public to the end that this article may be fully carried out.

28 10. Prescribe bonding requirements, if any, for ambulance services  
29 AND AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES THAT ARE granted authority to provide any type  
30 of subscription service.

31 11. Offer technical assistance to ambulance services AND AIR  
32 AMBULANCE SERVICES to ensure compliance with the rules.

33 12. Offer technical assistance to ambulance services in order to  
34 obtain or to amend a certificate of necessity.

35 13. Inspect, at a maximum of twelve-month intervals, each ambulance  
36 AND AIR AMBULANCE registered pursuant to section 36-2212 to ensure that  
37 the vehicle is operational and safe and that all required medical  
38 equipment is operational. At the request of the provider, the inspection  
39 may be performed by a facility approved by the director. If a provider  
40 requests that the inspection be performed by a facility approved by the  
41 director, the provider shall pay the cost of the inspection.

42 B. The director may require any ambulance service OR AIR AMBULANCE  
43 SERVICE offering subscription service contracts to obtain a bond in an  
44 amount determined by the director that is based on the number of  
45 subscription service contract holders and to file the bond with the

1 director to protect all subscription service contract holders in this  
2 state ~~who~~ THAT are covered under that subscription contract.

3 C. ~~At~~ EACH ambulance service shall:

4 1. Maintain, establish, add, move or delete suboperation stations  
5 within its base of operation to ensure that the ambulance service meets  
6 the established response times or those approved by the director in a  
7 political subdivision contract.

8 2. Determine the operating hours of its suboperation stations to  
9 provide for coverage of its base of operation.

10 3. Provide the department with a list of suboperation station  
11 locations.

12 4. Notify the department not later than thirty days after the  
13 ambulance service makes a change in the number or location of its  
14 suboperation stations.

15 5. ~~Beginning January 1, 2024,~~ Install and maintain an electronic  
16 global positioning system monitoring device in each vehicle that is used  
17 for transport to record on-scene arrival times for response time  
18 measurement. The department shall provide a waiver on a  
19 department-approved form to an ambulance service that can reasonably  
20 demonstrate it is unable to meet the requirements of this paragraph.

21 D. At any time, the director or the director's agents may:

22 1. Inquire into the operation of an ambulance service OR AIR  
23 AMBULANCE SERVICE, including a person operating an ambulance OR AIR  
24 AMBULANCE that has not been issued a certificate of registration or a  
25 person ~~who~~ OPERATING AN AMBULANCE THAT does not have or is operating  
26 outside of a certificate of necessity.

27 2. Conduct on-site inspections of facilities, communications  
28 equipment, vehicles, procedures, materials and equipment.

29 3. Review the qualifications of ambulance attendants AND AIR  
30 AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS.

31 E. If all ambulance services that have been granted authority to  
32 operate within the same service area or that have overlapping certificates  
33 of necessity apply for uniform rates and charges, the director may  
34 establish uniform rates and charges for the service area.

35 F. In consultation with the medical director of the BUREAU OF  
36 emergency medical services and trauma system, the emergency medical  
37 services council and the medical direction commission, the director of the  
38 department of health services shall establish protocols for ambulance  
39 services to refer and advise a patient or transport a patient by the most  
40 appropriate means to the most appropriate provider of medical services  
41 based on the patient's condition. The protocols shall include triage and  
42 treatment protocols that allow all classifications of emergency medical  
43 care technicians responding to a person who has accessed 911, or a similar  
44 public dispatch number, for a condition that does not pose an immediate  
45 threat to life or limb to refer and advise a patient or transport a

1 patient to the most appropriate health care institution as defined in  
2 section 36-401 based on the patient's condition, taking into consideration  
3 factors including patient choice, the patient's health care provider,  
4 specialized health care facilities and local protocols.

5 G. The director, when reviewing an ambulance service's response  
6 time compliance with its certificate of necessity, shall consider in  
7 addition to other factors the effect of hospital diversion, delayed  
8 emergency department admission and the number of ambulances engaged in  
9 response or transport in the affected area.

10 H. The department shall incorporate all of the following factors  
11 when calculating the proposed mileage rate:

- 12 1. The cost of licensure and registration of each ground ambulance  
13 vehicle.
- 14 2. The cost of fuel.
- 15 3. The cost of ground ambulance vehicle maintenance.
- 16 4. The cost of ground ambulance vehicle repair.
- 17 5. The cost of tires.
- 18 6. The cost of ground ambulance vehicle insurance.
- 19 7. The cost of mechanic wages, benefits and payroll taxes.
- 20 8. The cost of loan interest related to the ground ambulance  
21 vehicles.
- 22 9. The cost of the weighted allocation of overhead.
- 23 10. The cost of ground ambulance vehicle depreciation.
- 24 11. The cost of reserves for replacement of ground ambulance  
25 vehicles and equipment.

26 Sec. 20. Section 36-2239, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
27 read:

28 36-2239. Ambulance services; rates; charges; adjustment;  
29 civil penalty

30 A. An ambulance service that applies to adjust its rates or charges  
31 shall automatically be granted a rate increase equal to the amount  
32 determined under section 36-2234, subsection G, if the ambulance service  
33 is so entitled. An automatic rate adjustment that is granted pursuant to  
34 this subsection and that is filed on or before April 1 is effective June 1  
35 of that year. The department shall notify the applicant and each health  
36 care services organization as defined in section 20-1051 of the rate  
37 adjustment on or before May 1 of that year.

38 B. Notwithstanding subsection E of this section, if the department  
39 does not hold a hearing within ninety days after an ambulance service  
40 applies to the department to adjust its rates or charges, the ambulance  
41 service may adjust its rates or charges to an amount not to exceed the  
42 amount sought by the ambulance service in its application to the  
43 department. An ambulance service shall not apply to adjust its rates or  
44 charges more than once every six months.

1 C. At the time the department holds a hearing on the rates or  
2 charges of an ambulance service pursuant to section 36-2234, the  
3 department may adjust the rates or charges adjusted by the ambulance  
4 service pursuant to subsection B of this section, but the adjustment shall  
5 not be retroactive.

6 D. Except as provided in subsection H of this section, an ambulance  
7 service shall not charge, demand or collect any remuneration for any  
8 service greater or less than or different from the rate or charge  
9 determined and fixed by the department as the rate or charge for that  
10 service. An ambulance service may charge for disposable supplies, medical  
11 supplies and medication and oxygen related costs if the charges do not  
12 exceed the manufacturer's suggested retail price, are uniform throughout  
13 the ambulance service's certificated area and are filed with the director.  
14 An ambulance service shall not refund or limit in any manner or by any  
15 device any portion of the rates or charges for a service that the  
16 department has determined and fixed or ordered as the rate or charge for  
17 that service.

18 E. The department shall determine and render its decision regarding  
19 all rates or charges within ninety days after commencement of the  
20 applicant's hearing to adjust rates or charges. If the department does  
21 not render its decision as required by this subsection, the ambulance  
22 service may adjust its rates and charges to an amount that does not exceed  
23 the amounts sought by the ambulance service in its application to the  
24 department. If the department renders a decision to adjust the rates or  
25 charges to an amount less than that requested in the application and the  
26 ambulance service has adjusted its rates and charges higher than the  
27 adjustment approved by the department, within thirty days after the  
28 department's decision the ambulance service shall refund to the  
29 appropriate ratepayer the difference between the ambulance service's  
30 adjusted rates and charges and the rates and charges ordered by the  
31 department. The ambulance service shall provide evidence to the  
32 department that the refund has been made. If the ambulance service fails  
33 to comply with this subsection, the director may impose a civil penalty  
34 subject to the limits provided in section 36-2245.

35 F. An ambulance service shall charge the advanced life support base  
36 rate as prescribed by the director under any of the following  
37 circumstances:

38 1. A person requests an ambulance by dialing telephone number 911,  
39 or a similarly designated telephone number for emergency calls, and all of  
40 the following apply:

41 (a) The ambulance is staffed with at least one ambulance attendant.

42 (b) The ambulance is equipped with all required advanced life  
43 support medical equipment and supplies for the advanced life support  
44 attendants in the ambulance.

1 (c) The patient receives advanced life support services or is  
2 transported by the advanced life support unit.

3 2. Advanced life support is requested by a medical authority or by  
4 the patient.

5 3. The ambulance attendants administer one or more specialized  
6 treatment activities or procedures as prescribed by the department by  
7 rule.

8 G. An ambulance service shall charge the basic life support base  
9 rate as prescribed by the director under any of the following  
10 circumstances:

11 1. A person requests an ambulance by dialing telephone number 911,  
12 or a similarly designated telephone number for emergency calls, and all of  
13 the following apply:

14 (a) The ambulance is staffed with two ambulance attendants  
15 certified by this state.

16 (b) The ambulance is equipped with all required basic life support  
17 medical equipment and supplies for the basic life support medical  
18 attendants in the ambulance.

19 (c) The patient receives basic life support services or is  
20 transported by the basic life support unit.

21 2. Basic life support transportation or service is requested by a  
22 medical authority or by the patient, unless any provision of subsection F  
23 of this section applies, in which case the advanced life support rate  
24 applies.

25 3. For an interfacility transport when the ambulance is staffed  
26 with at least one ambulance attendant as defined in section 36-2201,  
27 paragraph ~~6~~ 9, subdivision (a), (c), (d) or (e).

28 H. For each contract year, the Arizona health care cost containment  
29 system administration and its contractors and subcontractors shall provide  
30 remuneration for ambulance services for persons who are enrolled in or  
31 covered by the Arizona health care cost containment system in an amount  
32 equal to 68.59 percent of the amounts as prescribed by the department as  
33 of July 1 of each year for services specified in subsections F and G of  
34 this section and 68.59 percent of the mileage charges as determined by the  
35 department as of July 1 of each year pursuant to section 36-2232. The  
36 Arizona health care cost containment system administration shall annually  
37 adjust the Arizona health care cost containment system fee schedule  
38 according to the department's approved ambulance service rate in effect as  
39 of July 1 of each year. The rate adjustments made pursuant to this  
40 subsection are effective beginning October 1 of each year.

41 I. In establishing rates and charges, the director shall consider  
42 the following factors:

43 1. The transportation needs assessment of the medical response  
44 system in a political subdivision.

1           2. The medical care consumer price index of the United States  
2 department of labor, bureau of labor statistics.

3           3. Whether a review is made by a local emergency medical services  
4 coordinating system in regions where that system is designated as to the  
5 appropriateness of the proposed service level.

6           4. The rate of return on gross revenue.

7           5. Response times pursuant to section 36-2232, subsection A,  
8 paragraphs 3 and 4.

9           J. Notwithstanding section 36-2234, an ambulance service may charge  
10 an amount for medical assessment, equipment or treatment that exceeds the  
11 requirements of section 36-2205 if requested or required by a medical  
12 provider or patient.

13           K. Notwithstanding subsections D, F and G of this section, an  
14 ambulance service may provide gratuitous services if an ambulance is  
15 dispatched and the patient subsequently declines to be treated or  
16 transported.

17           Sec. 21. Section 36-2245, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
18 read:

19           36-2245. Investigations; complaints; informal interviews;  
20                                   hearings; stipulations; judicial review; civil  
21                                   penalty; confidentiality; applicability

22           A. The department may conduct an investigation into the operation  
23 of ambulances and ambulance services.

24           B. Proceedings under this section may be initiated by the  
25 department.

26           C. If the department receives a written and signed statement of  
27 dissatisfaction or dispute of charges or any matter relating to the  
28 regulation of ambulance services, the customer is deemed to have filed an  
29 informal complaint against the ambulance service. Within fifteen days ~~of~~  
30 ~~receipt of~~ AFTER RECEIVING the complaint, a designated representative of  
31 the department shall inform the ambulance service that an informal  
32 complaint has been filed, state the nature of the allegations made,  
33 specify the purported rule violation and identify specific records  
34 relating to the purported rule violation that the ambulance service shall  
35 provide to the department. The ambulance service shall comply with the  
36 request for records in a timely manner.

37           D. Within forty-five days ~~of receipt of~~ AFTER RECEIVING the  
38 records, the department shall determine ~~if~~ WHETHER the complaint is  
39 nonsubstantive or substantive.

40           E. If the department determines that a complaint filed pursuant to  
41 this section is nonsubstantive, ~~it~~ THE DEPARTMENT shall render a written  
42 decision to all parties within five days ~~of~~ AFTER that determination. The  
43 complainant may make a formal complaint to the department if the  
44 complainant disagrees with the department's decision. If the  
45 nonsubstantive complaint involves rates and charges, a designated

1 representative of the department shall attempt to resolve the dispute by  
2 correspondence or telephone with the ambulance service and the customer.

3 F. If the department determines that a complaint filed pursuant to  
4 this section is substantive, the complaint becomes a formal complaint.  
5 The department shall inform the ambulance service that the initial  
6 investigation was substantive in nature and may warrant action pursuant to  
7 this article. The department shall inform the ambulance service of the  
8 specific rule violation and shall allow the ambulance service thirty days  
9 to answer the complaint in writing.

10 G. The department may issue a written request for an informal  
11 interview with the ambulance service if the department believes that the  
12 evidence indicates that grounds for action exist. The request shall state  
13 the reasons for the **INFORMAL** interview and shall schedule an interview at  
14 least ten days ~~from~~ **AFTER** the date that the department sends the request  
15 for an interview.

16 H. If the department determines that evidence warrants action or if  
17 the ambulance service refuses to attend the informal interview, the  
18 director shall institute formal proceedings and hold a hearing pursuant to  
19 title 41, chapter 6, article 10.

20 I. If the department believes that a lesser disciplinary action is  
21 appropriate, the department may enter into a stipulated agreement with the  
22 ambulance service. This stipulation may include a civil penalty as  
23 provided under subsection J of this section.

24 J. In addition to other disciplinary action provided under this  
25 section, the director may impose a civil penalty of not more than ~~three~~  
26 ~~hundred fifty dollars~~ **\$350** for each violation of this chapter that  
27 constitutes grounds to suspend or revoke a certificate of necessity. This  
28 penalty shall not exceed ~~fifteen thousand dollars~~ **\$15,000**. Each day that  
29 a violation occurs constitutes a separate offense. The director shall  
30 deposit, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, all monies collected  
31 under this subsection in the emergency medical services operating fund  
32 established ~~under~~ **BY** section 36-2218.

33 K. The director may suspend a certificate of necessity without  
34 holding a hearing if the director determines that the certificate holder  
35 has failed to pay a civil penalty imposed under this section. The director  
36 shall reinstate the certificate of necessity when the certificate holder  
37 pays the penalty in full.

38 L. Except as provided in section 41-1092.08, subsection H, a final  
39 decision of the department pursuant to this section is subject to judicial  
40 review pursuant to title 12, chapter 7, article 6.

41 M. Information, documents and records received by the department or  
42 prepared by the department in connection with an investigation that is  
43 conducted pursuant to this article and that relates to emergency medical  
44 care technicians are confidential and are not subject to public inspection  
45 or civil discovery. When the investigation has been completed and the

1 investigation file has been closed, the results of the investigation and  
2 the decision of the department shall be available to the public.

3 N. THIS SECTION APPLIES TO AIR AMBULANCES AND AIR AMBULANCE  
4 SERVICES TO THE EXTENT THAT:

5 1. THE COMPLAINT OR PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT RELATE  
6 TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AIR AMBULANCE OR AIR  
7 AMBULANCE SERVICE.

8 2. THE INVESTIGATION DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY FEDERAL LAW OR  
9 REGULATION GOVERNING AIR CARRIERS.

10 Sec. 22. Section 36-2264, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
11 read:

12 36-2264. Exemption from regulation

13 A. A person who obtains an automated external defibrillator for  
14 home use pursuant to a physician's prescription is exempt from the  
15 requirements of this article.

16 B. A person who is employed as a firefighter, emergency medical  
17 care technician, AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT or ambulance attendant by a fire  
18 district established pursuant to title 48, chapter 5 is exempt from the  
19 requirements of this article.

20 C. A person who is employed as a firefighter, emergency medical  
21 care technician, AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDANT or ambulance attendant by a  
22 public or private fire department, AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE or ~~an~~ ambulance  
23 service regulated by this chapter is exempt from the requirements of this  
24 article.

25 Sec. 23. Section 36-2907, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
26 read:

27 36-2907. Covered health and medical services; modifications;  
28 related delivery of service requirements; rules;  
29 definitions

30 A. Subject to the limits and exclusions specified in this section,  
31 contractors shall provide the following medically necessary health and  
32 medical services:

33 1. Inpatient hospital services that are ordinarily furnished by a  
34 hospital to care for and treat inpatients and that are provided under the  
35 direction of a physician or a primary care practitioner. For the purposes  
36 of this section, inpatient hospital services exclude services in an  
37 institution for tuberculosis or mental diseases unless authorized under an  
38 approved section 1115 waiver.

39 2. Outpatient health services that are ordinarily provided in  
40 hospitals, clinics, offices and other health care facilities by licensed  
41 health care providers. Outpatient health services include services  
42 provided by or under the direction of a physician or a primary care  
43 practitioner, including occupational therapy.

44 3. Other laboratory and X-ray services ordered by a physician or a  
45 primary care practitioner.

1           4. Medications that are ordered on prescription by a physician or a  
2 dentist who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 11. Persons who are  
3 dually eligible for title XVIII and title XIX services must obtain  
4 available medications through a medicare licensed or certified medicare  
5 advantage prescription drug plan, a medicare prescription drug plan or any  
6 other entity authorized by medicare to provide a medicare part D  
7 prescription drug benefit.

8           5. Medical supplies, durable medical equipment, insulin pumps and  
9 prosthetic devices ordered by a physician or a primary care practitioner.  
10 Suppliers of durable medical equipment shall provide the administration  
11 with complete information about the identity of each person who has an  
12 ownership or controlling interest in their business and shall comply with  
13 federal bonding requirements in a manner prescribed by the administration.

14           6. For persons who are at least twenty-one years of age, treatment  
15 of medical conditions of the eye, excluding eye examinations for  
16 prescriptive lenses and the provision of prescriptive lenses.

17           7. Early and periodic health screening and diagnostic services as  
18 required by section 1905(r) of title XIX of the social security act for  
19 members who are under twenty-one years of age.

20           8. Family planning services that do not include abortion or  
21 abortion counseling. If a contractor elects not to provide family  
22 planning services, this election does not disqualify the contractor from  
23 delivering all other covered health and medical services under this  
24 chapter. In that event, the administration may contract directly with  
25 another contractor, including an outpatient surgical center or a  
26 noncontracting provider, to deliver family planning services to a member  
27 who is enrolled with the contractor that elects not to provide family  
28 planning services.

29           9. Podiatry services that are performed by a podiatrist who is  
30 licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 7 and ordered by a primary care  
31 physician or primary care practitioner.

32           10. Nonexperimental transplants approved for title XIX  
33 reimbursement.

34           11. Dental services as follows:

35           (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of this paragraph, for  
36 persons who are at least twenty-one years of age, emergency dental care  
37 and extractions in an annual amount of not more than \$1,000 per member.

38           (b) Subject to approval by the centers for medicare and medicaid  
39 services, for persons treated at an Indian health service or tribal  
40 facility, adult dental services that are eligible for a federal medical  
41 assistance percentage of one hundred percent and that exceed the limit  
42 prescribed in subdivision (a) of this paragraph.

43           12. AIR AMBULANCE, ambulance and nonambulance transportation,  
44 except as provided in subsection G of this section.

45           13. Hospice care.

1           14. Orthotics, if all of the following apply:  
2           (a) The use of the orthotic is medically necessary as the preferred  
3 treatment option consistent with medicare guidelines.  
4           (b) The orthotic is less expensive than all other treatment options  
5 or surgical procedures to treat the same diagnosed condition.  
6           (c) The orthotic is ordered by a physician or primary care  
7 practitioner.  
8           15. Subject to approval by the centers for medicare and medicaid  
9 services, medically necessary chiropractic services that are performed by  
10 a chiropractor who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 8 and that  
11 are ordered by a primary care physician or primary care practitioner  
12 pursuant to rules adopted by the administration. The primary care  
13 physician or primary care practitioner may initially order up to twenty  
14 visits annually that include treatment and may request authorization for  
15 additional chiropractic services in that same year if additional  
16 chiropractic services are medically necessary.  
17           16. For up to ten program hours annually, diabetes outpatient  
18 self-management training services, as defined in 42 United States Code  
19 section 1395x, if prescribed by a primary care practitioner in either of  
20 the following circumstances:  
21           (a) The member is initially diagnosed with diabetes.  
22           (b) For a member who has previously been diagnosed with diabetes,  
23 either:  
24           (i) A change occurs in the member's diagnosis, medical condition or  
25 treatment regimen.  
26           (ii) The member is not meeting appropriate clinical outcomes.  
27           17. Pursuant to the terms and conditions that are approved by the  
28 centers for medicare and medicaid services and subject to available  
29 funding, traditional healing services, if both of the following apply:  
30           (a) The member qualifies for services through the Indian health  
31 service or a tribal facility pursuant to the conditions of participation  
32 outlined in 42 Code of Federal Regulations section 136.12.  
33           (b) The traditional healing service is delivered by or through the  
34 Indian health service or a tribal facility.  
35           B. The limits and exclusions for health and medical services  
36 provided under this section are as follows:  
37           1. Circumcision of newborn males is not a covered health and  
38 medical service.  
39           2. For eligible persons who are at least twenty-one years of age:  
40           (a) Prosthetic devices do not include hearing aids, dentures or  
41 bone-anchored hearing aids. Prosthetic devices, except prosthetic  
42 implants, may be limited to \$12,500 per contract year.  
43           (b) Percussive vests are not covered health and medical services.  
44           (c) Durable medical equipment is limited to items covered by  
45 medicare.

1 (d) Nonexperimental transplants do not include pancreas-only  
2 transplants.

3 (e) Bariatric surgery procedures, including laparoscopic and open  
4 gastric bypass and restrictive procedures, are not covered health and  
5 medical services.

6 C. The system shall pay noncontracting providers only for health  
7 and medical services as prescribed in subsection A of this section and as  
8 prescribed by rule.

9 D. The director shall adopt rules necessary to limit, to the extent  
10 possible, the scope, duration and amount of services, including maximum  
11 limits for inpatient services that are consistent with federal regulations  
12 under title XIX of the social security act (P.L. 89-97; 79 Stat. 344;  
13 42 United States Code section 1396 (1980)). To the extent possible and  
14 practicable, these rules shall provide for the prior approval of medically  
15 necessary services provided pursuant to this chapter.

16 E. The director shall make available home health services in lieu  
17 of hospitalization pursuant to contracts awarded under this article. For  
18 the purposes of this subsection, "home health services" means the  
19 provision of nursing services, home health aide services or medical  
20 supplies, equipment and appliances that are provided on a part-time or  
21 intermittent basis by a licensed home health agency within a member's  
22 residence based on the orders of a physician or a primary care  
23 practitioner. Home health agencies shall comply with the federal bonding  
24 requirements in a manner prescribed by the administration.

25 F. The director shall adopt rules for the coverage of behavioral  
26 health services for persons who are eligible under section 36-2901,  
27 paragraph 6, subdivision (a). The administration acting through the  
28 regional behavioral health authorities shall establish a diagnostic and  
29 evaluation program to which other state agencies shall refer children who  
30 are not already enrolled pursuant to this chapter and who may be in need  
31 of behavioral health services. In addition to an evaluation, the  
32 administration acting through regional behavioral health authorities shall  
33 also identify children who may be eligible under section 36-2901,  
34 paragraph 6, subdivision (a) or section 36-2931, paragraph 5 and shall  
35 refer the children to the appropriate agency responsible for making the  
36 final eligibility determination.

37 G. The director shall adopt rules providing for transportation  
38 services and rules providing for copayment by members for transportation  
39 for other than emergency purposes. Subject to approval by the centers for  
40 medicare and medicaid services, nonemergency medical transportation shall  
41 not be provided except for stretcher vans AND AIR AMBULANCE and ambulance  
42 transportation. Prior authorization is required for transportation by  
43 stretcher van and for medically necessary AIR AMBULANCE AND ambulance  
44 transportation initiated pursuant to a physician's direction. Prior  
45 authorization is not required for medically necessary AIR AMBULANCE AND

1 ambulance transportation services rendered to members or eligible persons  
2 initiated by dialing telephone number 911 or other designated emergency  
3 response systems.

4 H. The director may adopt rules to allow the administration, at the  
5 director's discretion, to use a second opinion procedure under which  
6 surgery may not be eligible for coverage pursuant to this chapter without  
7 documentation as to need by at least two physicians or primary care  
8 practitioners.

9 I. If the director does not receive bids within the amounts  
10 budgeted or if at any time the amount remaining in the Arizona health care  
11 cost containment system fund is insufficient to pay for full contract  
12 services for the remainder of the contract term, the administration, on  
13 notification to system contractors at least thirty days in advance, may  
14 modify the list of services required under subsection A of this section  
15 for persons defined as eligible other than those persons defined pursuant  
16 to section 36-2901, paragraph 6, subdivision (a). The director may also  
17 suspend services or may limit categories of expense for services defined  
18 as optional pursuant to title XIX of the social security act (P.L. 89-97;  
19 79 Stat. 344; 42 United States Code section 1396 (1980)) for persons  
20 defined pursuant to section 36-2901, paragraph 6, subdivision (a). Such  
21 reductions or suspensions do not apply to the continuity of care for  
22 persons already receiving these services.

23 J. All health and medical services provided under this article  
24 shall be provided in the geographic service area of the member, except:

25 1. Emergency services and specialty services provided pursuant to  
26 section 36-2908.

27 2. That the director may allow the delivery of health and medical  
28 services in other than the geographic service area in this state or in an  
29 adjoining state if the director determines that medical practice patterns  
30 justify the delivery of services or a net reduction in transportation  
31 costs can reasonably be expected. Notwithstanding the definition of  
32 physician as prescribed in section 36-2901, if services are procured from  
33 a physician or primary care practitioner in an adjoining state, the  
34 physician or primary care practitioner shall be licensed to practice in  
35 that state pursuant to licensing statutes in that state that are similar  
36 to title 32, chapter 13, 15, 17 or 25 and shall complete a provider  
37 agreement for this state.

38 K. Covered outpatient services shall be subcontracted by a primary  
39 care physician or primary care practitioner to other licensed health care  
40 providers to the extent practicable for purposes including, but not  
41 limited to, making health care services available to underserved areas,  
42 reducing costs of providing medical care and reducing transportation  
43 costs.

44 L. The director shall adopt rules that prescribe the coordination  
45 of medical care for persons who are eligible for system services. The

1 rules shall include provisions for transferring patients and medical  
2 records and initiating medical care.

3 M. Pursuant to the terms and conditions that are approved by the  
4 centers for medicare and medicaid services and subject to available  
5 funding, the director shall implement limited benefit coverage prerelease  
6 services to eligible incarcerated individuals and committed youth for up  
7 to ninety days immediately before ~~the individuals~~ EACH INDIVIDUAL'S or  
8 committed youth's expected date of release from a prison, jail, secure  
9 care facility or tribal correctional facility.

10 N. Notwithstanding section 36-2901.08, monies from the hospital  
11 assessment fund established by section 36-2901.09 may not be used to  
12 provide any of the following:

13 1. Chiropractic services as prescribed in subsection A, paragraph  
14 15 of this section.

15 2. Diabetes outpatient self-management training services as  
16 prescribed in subsection A, paragraph 16 of this section.

17 3. Speech therapy provided in an outpatient setting to eligible  
18 persons who are at least twenty-one years of age.

19 4. Cochlear implants to eligible persons who are at least  
20 twenty-one years of age.

21 0. For the purposes of this section:

22 1. "AIR AMBULANCE" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION  
23 36-2201.

24 ~~1.~~ 2. "Ambulance" has the same meaning prescribed in section  
25 36-2201.

26 ~~2.~~ 3. "Tribal facility" has the same meaning prescribed in section  
27 36-2981.

28 Sec. 24. Section 36-2989, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
29 read:

30 36-2989. Covered health and medical services; modifications;  
31 related delivery of service requirements

32 A. Except as provided in this section, health and medical services  
33 prescribed in section 36-2907 are covered services and include:

34 1. Inpatient hospital services that are ordinarily furnished by a  
35 hospital for the care and treatment of inpatients, that are medically  
36 necessary and that are provided under the direction of a physician or a  
37 primary care practitioner. For the purposes of this paragraph, inpatient  
38 hospital services exclude services in an institution for tuberculosis or  
39 mental diseases unless authorized by federal law.

40 2. Outpatient health services that are medically necessary and  
41 ordinarily provided in hospitals, clinics, offices and other health care  
42 facilities by licensed health care providers. For the purposes of this  
43 paragraph, "outpatient health services" includes services provided by or  
44 under the direction of a physician or a primary care practitioner.

- 1           3. Other laboratory and X-ray services ordered by a physician or a  
2 primary care practitioner.
- 3           4. Medications that are medically necessary and ordered on  
4 prescription by a physician, a primary care practitioner or a dentist  
5 licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 11.
- 6           5. Medical supplies, equipment and prosthetic devices.
- 7           6. Treatment of medical conditions of the eye, including eye  
8 examinations for prescriptive lenses and the provision of prescriptive  
9 lenses for members.
- 10          7. Medically necessary dental services.
- 11          8. Well child services, immunizations and prevention services.
- 12          9. Family planning services that do not include abortion or  
13 abortion counseling. If a contractor elects not to provide family  
14 planning services, this election does not disqualify the contractor from  
15 delivering all other covered health and medical services under this  
16 article. In that event, the administration may contract directly with  
17 another contractor, including an outpatient surgical center or a  
18 noncontracting provider, to deliver family planning services to a member  
19 who is enrolled with a contractor who elects not to provide family  
20 planning services.
- 21          10. Podiatry services that are performed by a podiatrist licensed  
22 pursuant to title 32, chapter 7 and that are ordered by a primary care  
23 physician or primary care practitioner.
- 24          11. Medically necessary pancreas, heart, liver, kidney, cornea,  
25 lung and heart-lung transplants and autologous and allogeneic bone marrow  
26 transplants and immunosuppressant medications for these transplants  
27 ordered on prescription by a physician licensed pursuant to title 32,  
28 chapter 13 or 17.
- 29          12. Medically necessary emergency and nonemergency transportation.
- 30          13. Inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services that are  
31 the same as the least restrictive health benefits coverage plan for  
32 behavioral health services that are offered through a health care services  
33 organization for state employees under section 38-651.
- 34          14. Hospice care.
- 35          B. The administration shall pay noncontracting providers only for  
36 health and medical services as prescribed in subsection A of this section.
- 37          C. To the extent possible and practicable, the administration and  
38 contractors shall provide for the prior approval of medically necessary  
39 services provided pursuant to this article.
- 40          D. The director shall make available home health services in lieu  
41 of hospitalization pursuant to contracts awarded under this article.
- 42          E. Behavioral health services shall be provided to members through  
43 the administration's contractors. The administration acting through  
44 regional behavioral health authorities as defined in section 36-3401 shall  
45 use its established diagnostic and evaluation program for referrals of

1 children who are not already enrolled pursuant to this article and who may  
2 be in need of behavioral health services. In addition to an evaluation,  
3 the administration acting through regional behavioral health authorities  
4 as defined in section 36-3401 shall also identify children who may be  
5 eligible under section 36-2901, paragraph 6, subdivision (a) or section  
6 36-2931, paragraph 5 and shall refer the children to the appropriate  
7 agency responsible for making the final eligibility determination.

8 F. The director shall adopt rules for the provision of  
9 transportation services for members. Prior authorization is not required  
10 for medically necessary AIR AMBULANCE AND ambulance transportation  
11 services rendered to members initiated by dialing telephone number 911 or  
12 other designated emergency response systems.

13 G. The director may adopt rules to allow the administration to use  
14 a second opinion procedure under which surgery may not be eligible for  
15 coverage pursuant to this article without documentation as to need by at  
16 least two physicians or primary care practitioners.

17 H. All health and medical services provided under this article  
18 shall be provided in the geographic service area of the member, except:

- 19 1. Emergency services and specialty services.
- 20 2. The director may permit the delivery of health and medical  
21 services in other than the geographic service area in this state or in an  
22 adjoining state if it is determined that medical practice patterns justify  
23 the delivery of services or a net reduction in transportation costs can  
24 reasonably be expected. Notwithstanding section 36-2981, paragraph 8 or  
25 11, if services are procured from a physician or primary care practitioner  
26 in an adjoining state, the physician or primary care practitioner shall be  
27 licensed to practice in that state pursuant to licensing statutes in that  
28 state that are similar to title 32, chapter 13, 15, 17 or 25.

29 I. Covered outpatient services shall be subcontracted by a primary  
30 care physician or primary care practitioner to other licensed health care  
31 providers to the extent practicable for purposes of making health care  
32 services available to underserved areas, reducing costs of providing  
33 medical care and reducing transportation costs.

34 J. The director shall adopt rules that prescribe the coordination  
35 of medical care for members and that include a mechanism to transfer  
36 members and medical records and initiate medical care.

37 K. The director shall adopt rules for the reimbursement of  
38 specialty services provided to the member if authorized by the member's  
39 primary care physician or primary care practitioner.

40 L. Pursuant to the terms and conditions that are approved by the  
41 centers for medicare and medicaid services and subject to available  
42 funding, the director shall implement limited benefit coverage prerelease  
43 services to eligible incarcerated individuals or committed youth for up to  
44 ninety days immediately before ~~the individuals~~ EACH INDIVIDUAL'S or

1 committed youth's expected date of release from a prison, jail, secure  
2 care facility or tribal correctional facility.

3 Sec. 25. Section 41-1831, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
4 read:

5 41-1831. Definitions

6 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

7 1. "AIR AMBULANCE" MEANS ANY PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OWNED AIRCRAFT  
8 THAT IS CERTIFICATED UNDER 14 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 135, THAT  
9 CONTAINS A STRETCHER AND NECESSARY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES PURSUANT  
10 TO SECTION 36-2202 AND THAT IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED OR  
11 MODIFIED AND EQUIPPED TO BE USED, MAINTAINED OR OPERATED PRIMARILY TO  
12 TRANSPORT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SICK, INJURED OR WOUNDED OR WHO REQUIRE  
13 MEDICAL MONITORING OR AID.

14 2. "AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE" MEANS A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT OWNS  
15 AND OPERATES ONE OR MORE AIR AMBULANCES OR THAT LEASES FROM AN AIR CARRIER  
16 THE USE OF ONE OR MORE AIR AMBULANCES THAT ARE CERTIFICATED UNDER 14 CODE  
17 OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 135, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY  
18 MEDICAL SERVICES IN AIR AMBULANCES.

19 ~~1.~~ 3. "Ambulance":

20 (a) Means any publicly or privately owned surface, ~~OR water or air~~  
21 vehicle, ~~including a helicopter,~~ that is ~~specialty~~ SPECIFICALLY designed  
22 and constructed or modified and equipped to be used, maintained or  
23 operated for transportation of individuals who are sick, injured, wounded  
24 or otherwise incapacitated or helpless. ~~Ambulance~~

25 (b) Does not include surface vehicles owned and operated by a  
26 private sole proprietor, partnership, private corporation or municipal  
27 corporation for the emergency transportation or in transit care of its  
28 employees.

29 ~~2.~~ 4. "Ambulance pilot" means an individual who is responsible for  
30 the operation of an air ambulance and who is trained and certified as  
31 provided in this chapter.

32 ~~3.~~ 5. "Ambulance service" means a person who owns and operates one  
33 or more ambulances.

34 ~~5.~~ 6. "Department" means the department of public safety.

35 ~~6.~~ 7. "Director" means the director of the department ~~of public~~  
36 ~~safety.~~

37 ~~4.~~ 8. "Emergency medical care technician" means an individual who  
38 has been certified by the department of health services as an emergency  
39 medical technician, an advanced emergency medical technician, an emergency  
40 medical technician I-99 or a paramedic.

41 ~~7.~~ 9. "Emergency medical patient" means a person who is suffering  
42 from a condition that requires immediate medical care or hospitalization,  
43 or both, in order to preserve the person's health, life or limb.

44 ~~8.~~ 10. "Emergency medical services communication system" means the  
45 statewide system THAT IS implemented, coordinated and administered by the

1 department of public safety, ~~which~~ AND THAT may have the capability of  
2 providing for the intercommunication of any or all law enforcement  
3 agencies and personnel, ambulances, ambulance services AND AIR AMBULANCE  
4 SERVICES and dispatchers, emergency receiving facilities, other health  
5 care institutions, medical practitioners, motor vehicle repair, fire  
6 service vehicles and tow trucks, and any other agencies and persons who  
7 may be serving on a volunteer basis.

8 ~~9.~~ 11. "Emergency medical situation" means a condition of  
9 emergency in which immediate medical care or hospitalization, or both, is  
10 required by a person or persons for the preservation of health, life or  
11 limb.

12 ~~10.~~ 12. "Emergency receiving facility" means a licensed health care  
13 institution that offers emergency medical services, that is staffed  
14 twenty-four hours a day and that has a physician who is licensed pursuant  
15 to title 32, chapter 13 or 17, ~~on call.~~

16 Sec. 26. Section 41-2407, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
17 read:

18 41-2407. Victim compensation and assistance fund;  
19 subrogation; prohibited debt collection activity;  
20 definition

21 A. The victim compensation and assistance fund is established. The  
22 Arizona criminal justice commission shall administer the fund. The victim  
23 compensation and assistance fund shall consist of monies collected  
24 pursuant to section 31-411, subsection E and sections 12-116.08, 13-4310,  
25 31-418, 31-467.06 and 41-1674, unclaimed victim restitution monies  
26 pursuant to sections 22-116 and 44-313 and monies available from any other  
27 source.

28 B. Subject to legislative appropriation, the Arizona criminal  
29 justice commission shall allocate monies in the victim compensation and  
30 assistance fund to public and private agencies for the purpose of  
31 establishing, maintaining and supporting programs that compensate and  
32 assist victims of crime.

33 C. The allocation of monies pursuant to this section shall be made  
34 in accordance with rules adopted by the Arizona criminal justice  
35 commission pursuant to section 41-2405, subsection A, paragraph 8. The  
36 rules shall provide that persons who suffered personal injury or death  
37 that resulted from an attempt to aid a public safety officer in the  
38 prevention of a crime or the apprehension of a criminal may be eligible  
39 for compensation.

40 D. This state and the applicable operational unit or qualified  
41 program, as defined in the victim compensation program rules, are  
42 subrogated to the rights of an individual who receives monies from the  
43 victim compensation and assistance fund to recover or receive monies or  
44 benefits from a third party, to the extent of the amount of monies the  
45 individual receives from the fund.

1 E. A licensed health care provider who agrees to the victim  
2 compensation program rules may receive program monies for providing health  
3 and medical services to a victim or claimant. A licensed health care  
4 provider who accepts the full allowable payment for those services from a  
5 victim compensation program funded pursuant to this section is deemed to  
6 have accepted the payment as the full payment for those services. The  
7 licensed health care provider may not collect or attempt to collect any  
8 payment for the same health and medical services from the victim or  
9 claimant, except that if a victim compensation program funded pursuant to  
10 this section is unable to pay the full allowable payment to a licensed  
11 health care provider because of a lack of available monies or for any  
12 other reason, the licensed health care provider may collect the unpaid  
13 balance for the services from the victim or claimant or from a third-party  
14 payor, and the total amount billed or requested by the licensed health  
15 care provider may not exceed the full allowable payment that the licensed  
16 health care provider agreed to accept from the victim compensation program  
17 for the services.

18 F. If a licensed health care provider receives notice that a person  
19 has filed a claim with a victim compensation program funded by this  
20 section, the licensed health care provider is prohibited from any debt  
21 collection activity for any monies owed by the person that are included in  
22 the filed claim until an award is made on the claim or until a  
23 determination is made that the claim is noncompensable. For the purposes  
24 of this subsection, "debt collection activity" includes repeatedly  
25 telephoning or writing to the claimant and threatening to either turn the  
26 matter over to a debt collection agency or to an attorney for collection,  
27 enforcement or filing of any other debt collection process. Debt  
28 collection activity does not include routine billing or inquiries about  
29 the status of the claim.

30 G. For the purposes of this section, "licensed health care  
31 provider" means a person or institution that is licensed or certified by  
32 this state to provide health care services, medical services, nursing  
33 services, emergency medical services, [AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES](#) and ambulance  
34 services that are regulated pursuant to title 36, chapter 21.1, article 2  
35 or other health-related services.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 13, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 13, 2026.